

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**COUNCIL****18 MARCH 2020****Report of the Executive Director for Adult Social Care & Health****CARE HOMES CONSULTATION****ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH****1. Information and Background**

In 2018, detailed property condition surveys (known as facet surveys) were commissioned in relation to some of our residential homes for older people. These related to general building condition and electrical systems in the older homes. They were commissioned in the context of concerns that these ageing buildings were no longer considered fit for purpose and a concern for the state of the buildings given their age and the ongoing need to ensure the safety and wellbeing of residents both now and in the future.

The Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health advised previously that an appropriate and rapid course of action was needed to mitigate the concerns raised and ensure the ongoing safety of residents. Given the number of properties potentially unfit for purpose an approach that looked at homes on an individual basis was deemed insufficient. The homes proposed for closure are not fit for purpose by modern standards and cannot be modernised to make them fit for purpose and are not likely to be needed in the longer term as identified within the Older People's Housing Accommodation and Support Strategy 2018 – 2035 (agreed by Cabinet 9 May 2019).

The consultation proposals agreed by Cabinet on 23 January 2020 have accordingly sought to balance a number of risks including the need to acknowledge that these are people's long term homes against the need to reduce the risks associated with living in a home where electrical wiring needs replacing and other essential building condition improvement work is required. Whilst mitigations are in place to reduce the risk of harm in the event of any fire to an acceptable level these are not a viable long-term solution and the

risks of any fire occurring cannot be totally eliminated without the wiring being replaced.

2. Current position

The proposals agreed by Cabinet are currently the subject of a full consultation process which concludes on the 24 April 2020

In response to issues raised by consultees full details of the facet surveys relating to each of the homes concerned, together with other supporting information, have been published on the Council's web-site.

The proposals have generated considerable public interest and comment. A number of petitions have been produced. However, it is understood that none have to date have acquired the number of signatures needed to trigger, in accordance with the Constitution, a presentation to and debate at a meeting of Full Council.

It is nevertheless considered appropriate, given the high level of public engagement, to provide an opportunity for Elected Members to discuss these matters in Full Council.

It is intended that contributions made by Members at the meeting will be taken account of by Cabinet when it comes to consideration of the proposals, together with the outcome of the public consultation and the findings of the equality impact assessment process that is being undertaken.

3. Officer's recommendation

That Council consider the report

Helen Jones
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